

Finance Committee Minutes

January 9th 2014

The minutes of December 12th 2013 were distributed at 7:07PM when the meeting was called to order. Present were Mr. David Herrick presiding, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. Burt Imberman, Ms. Pat Mielke, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, and Ms. Tara White were guests.

The minutes were accepted as amended, Mr. Imberman 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

A request was made for the transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund of \$532 into the Workman's Compensation Account [90912.00]. This additional amount needed was the result of an audit of the payroll by the Insurance Company (MIIA) Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

The committee then proceeded to review budget with the understanding that budgets with salaries would be automatically placed on HOLD:-

Planning Board Clerical [10175.00] (\$1,300) level funded now requesting {\$1,300} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Planning board Expenses [10175.01] (\$873) level funded now requesting {\$873} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Planning Board Grants [10175.02] (\$0) no request for funds, no vote necessary!

Berkshire County Communication [60299.00] (\$9,137) level funded now requesting {\$9,137} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Veterans' District [6025.00] (\$5,684) now requesting {\$5,813} this is a town assessment. There is a veterans' agent that has an office in Great Barrington and helps veterans who request his service. Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Community Health Program [70521.00] (\$1,000) level funded now requesting {\$1,000} . Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

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Cemetery Expenses [20491.02] (\$2,700) level funded now requesting {\$2,700} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Computer Services [10146.02] (\$6,500) level funded now requesting {\$6,500} Mr. Imberman 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Expenses [10147.99] (\$4,200) now requesting {\$5,500}, this increase reflects the increased cost of stamps for the four yearly mailings. Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Tax Titles [10148.00] (\$3,000) level funded now requesting {\$3,000} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Library Expenses [50610.01] (\$38,713) now requesting {\$40,651} the committee was reminded that the purchase of books had to reflect a certain amount or the state accreditation would be lost. The rise in fuel also resulted in the increase of the budget. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Library Trustees [50610.03] (\$320) level funded now requesting {\$320} Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Tree Work [60294.01] (\$10,000) now requesting {\$15,000} Mr. Herrick stated that he was encouraged by the increase of this budget since he felt that there were many trees in the town that needed attention. This money is used for contractual work. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Tree Warden's Salary [60394.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

The following six budget items are concerned with the payment on loans:-

Highway Front End Loader Loan [80750.20] (\$0) now requesting {\$18,951} (First payment) Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Hall Renovations Loan 2013 [80750.15] (\$29,580) now requesting {\$29,042} this is the final payment on this loan. Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Ambulance Loan 2010 [80750.14] (\$28,835) now requesting {\$28,165} this will be the fourth of five payments on this loan. Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Hall Renovations 2013, [80750.18] (\$14,788) now requesting {\$14,430} this will be the second of five payments on this loan. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

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Highway Truck Loan 2014 [80750.19] (\$0) now requesting {\$26,170} this is the first payment of five payments on this loan. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Highway Truck Loan 2013 [80750.17] (\$42,907) now requesting {\$41, 870} this will be the second payment of five payments on this loan. Mr. Yohalem 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Visiting Nurse Association [70622] (\$2,447) level funded [\$2,447] Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector's Expenses [60241.02] (\$3,635) now requesting {\$2,617} the decrease in this budget was noted. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Street Lights [20424.00] [\$4,500] level funded now requesting {\$4,500}, a service that is provided by National Grid, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Title Treasurer [10149.00] (\$5,000) level funded now requesting {\$5,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer Software & Support [10147.89] (\$3,100) now requesting {\$3,200}, this service is now provided by SoftRight, Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Ms. Mielke recusing.

Treasurer's Expenses [10147.44] (\$3,130) now requesting {\$3,300} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed with Ms. Mielke recusing.

The following budgets were put on HOLD:-

Cemetery Salaries [20491.01] (\$33,955) now requesting {\$34,336}

Cemetery Officers' salaries [20491.00] (\$400) level funded {\$400}

Tax Collector Salary [10147.02] (\$25,086) now requesting {\$40,089}, tax collector claims that the workload has doubled over the past year.

Library Salaries [50610.02] (\$51,305) now requesting {\$52,983}

Building Inspectors Expense [new account, no account number available at this time] (\$0) now requesting {\$7,400}, this is to install and train the building inspector on the use of Berkshire Online Permitting Program. The committee will request the Building Inspector Mr. Tom Carmody to come and provide complete detail regarding this program.

Mr. Herrick stated that Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem selectman, had told him that the Egremont Finance Committee members were interested in meeting with the New Marlborough Finance Prudence Spaulding,
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Committee members to discuss the various ways that each committee conducted its business. This request will be shared with Mr. Zukauskas the Chairman of the New Marlborough Finance Committee and he will contact the chairman of the Egremont Finance Committee Ms. Laura Allen.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee was set for 5:00PM on Thursday January 16th when Mr. Ed Harvey will come and present the Emergency Management budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

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